

**SINGAPORE CUSTOMS, SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE AND  
IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY**

**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

On 30 January 2008, Singapore Customs, Singapore Police Force and Immigration & Checkpoints Authority conducted a joint operation to flush out illegal immigrants peddling contraband cigarettes at two locations – at the vicinity of the Yew Tee Industrial estate and along Petir Road. The 2-hour operation from 10 pm to 12 midnight resulted in the arrest of 10 immigration offenders, as well as seizures of 611 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The duty and GST payable on the contraband cigarettes amounted to \$4,893.92.

The raid at Yew Tee resulted in 4 men caught, as well as 368 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized. The 4 men were illegal immigrants. Along Petir Road, another 6 men – 3 illegal immigrants and 3 overstayers, were nabbed, along with 199 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized. One of the overstayers was also found in possession of 44 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

Singapore Customs warns that buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession or dealing with contraband cigarettes are serious offences under the Customs and GST Acts. Stiff penalties are imposed for such offences. On conviction by the court, offenders can be jailed as well as fined. The vehicles used in the commission of the offence are also liable to forfeiture. The public are also advised against buying duty-unpaid cigarettes. For a packet of duty-unpaid cigarettes, buyers stand to face a minimum fine of \$500 or prosecution in court. Members of the public with information on smuggling activities may contact the Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg)

**ISSUED BY:                   SINGAPORE CUSTOMS  
                                  SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE  
                                  IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY**

**DATE:                         31 JANUARY 2008**